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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,737	08/10/2001	Fumio Tokutomi	212734US2	6661

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314		

EXAMINER	
QIN, YIXING	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/10/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/925,737	TOKUTOMI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yixing Qin	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32 and 34-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32 and 34-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/29/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amended claims call for the delivery option to be represented by a corresponding delivery button and the ability to have an in-store purchase and pickup option with the reservation of item.

Although the references do not explicitly disclose the above amendment, the representation of a particular option as a button is well-known. Since the Hayward reference already shows the usage of buttons in Fig. 4, the addition of another button would be obvious, especially since Hayward/Vallabh already discloses various ways for the user to obtain the item, so it would have been obvious to include buttons for the users to designate how the user wanted to receive the item.

As for the in-store purchase and pick-up option, even though the Vallabh reference discloses the use of electronic payment, the reservation of an item and the picking up of it and paying for it in store has been known in the art of selling items (such as ordering a pizza and picking it up and paying for the pizza at the time of pickup). The advantages of either choice between paying online (convenience) or in-store (be able to see item prior to paying) is known. Alternatively, the option simply could be a preference of the buyer.

The reservation of items is disclosed by Vallabh, in Fig. 17, and column 13, lines 49-61. The items are reserved for the buyer when the buyer comes to pick it up. Furthermore, the reservation of a purchased item is inherent in an in-store pickup, since

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in-store pickup is an understanding that the item will be there for the buyer when he/she arrives to pick it up (i.e. reserved for the buyer)

Since both the addition of different buttons and the usage of a commonplace buying option has been known, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have implemented these additions to the Hayward/Vallabh invention. This rejection is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 29, 32, 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward et al (US 6,798,997) in view of Vallabh (US 7,054,832).

Regarding claim 3: Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach a print apparatus consumable purchase system (column 1, lines 8-16) comprising: a print apparatus (column 4, line 10 & fig 2, peripheral 10) for printing on a print medium, a display capable of displaying information concerning the print apparatus (fig. 3 & column 5, lines 24-39, display screen for print apparatus purchase system displays information

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concerning the peripheral 10); and a controller for displaying a status screen (figs 3 & 4, & column 5, lines 23-24 & 62-63, a display screen is used to display screen associated With the status of the peripheral 10) for representing consumption degree of a consumable used with the print apparatus on the display (fig 3 & column 5, lines 23-39, the display includes an "X" indicator to indicate a status condition in peripheral 10, wherein, column 5, lines 6-7, status conditions in peripheral 10 indicate a need for consumable replacement, which, column 8, lines 26-31; is based off of consumable level. In Specification, Applicant defines a consumption degree of a consumable as an "ink remaining amount." Therefore the indicator "X" taught by Hayward et al. and shown on the display in fig 3 represents an ink/toner remaining amount because it represents a low level) and displaying one (buy now, fig. 4) of a plurality of options (options to select buying from a preferred retailer, column 8, lines 60-65, options to buy now, options to have a diagnostics perform first before buying, column 7, lines 35-52, options to buy from a manufacturer, options to pay with a credit card, options for overnight express shipment, etc, column 8, lines 1-10) concerning the purchase mode (buying) of the consumable in the status screen (fig. 4), an option calling button (buy now button, column '8, lines 55-65) for calling the plurality of options concerning the purchase mode of the consumable in the status screen (column 8, lines 60-63)

NOTE: Although not specifically mentioned, a controller is inherently included in the system taught by Hayward et al. Without a controller, the functions associated with display of information as outlined above would not be available in the print apparatus

consumable purchase system. Therefore the teachings of Hayward et al. inherently included a controller as outline above.

Hayward further teaches a plurality of options to be selected, by using browser display (column 7, lines 65-67), of delivery purchase option (column 8, lines 47-48) represented by a corresponding delivery button and an I-store purchase and pickup option (column 8, lines 60-63, retailer is well known in the art to be in the form of a store, (official notice)).

Hayward does not show the screen of ordering through delivery purchase option and through a store (retailer) and the in-store purchase and pickup button for acquire a screen for providing dealer information and for reserving the consumable for in-store purchase from a selected dealer.

Vallabh, in the same area of online ordering (column 14, lines 35-40) teaches a screen of ordering options includes a delivery purchase option and a store purchase option represent by a corresponding delivery purchase button and a store purchase button (pickup, delivery, fig. 9) for acquiring a screen for providing dealer information (fig. 11, column 8, lines 24-30), and for store purchase, the customer would be able to pick up in the store to save some money or obtained the product immediately. (fig. 11, see minus in price adjustment, and immediate pickups, column 8, line 40i.) Even though the Vallabh reference discloses the use of electronic payment, the reservation of an item and the picking up of it and paying for it in store has been known in the art of

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selling items (such as ordering a pizza and picking it up and paying for the pizza at the time of pickup).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hayward to include: a screen of ordering options includes a delivery purchase option and a store purchase option represent by a corresponding delivery purchase button and a store purchase button for acquiring a screen for providing dealer information, and for store purchase, the customer would be able to pick up in the store to save some money or obtained the product immediately such that Hayward's invention would be able to be probably functioned (ordering product using a screen without a screen is impossible) and the user would be able to obtain the print cartridge immediately for urgent print job such as a student would be able to print a report, that would determined whether the student would need to retake the course again next semester or won't be able to graduate, on time, at 8:am in the morning to be turned in at 11 am the same day.

Regarding claim 7: Hayward teaches when the option calling button is selected, the controller connects to a predetermined server through a network and causes a screen to be presented, the screen displaying the plurality of options from the server and displays the screen on the display options from the server and displays the screen on the display (column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 12 and column 8:lines 54-63, when BUY NOW button is selected, a connection to server 40 is made, which provides a user

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screen with a plurality of purchase options: preferred distributor or not preferred distributor).

Regarding claim 8, Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 3, wherein when the option calling button is selected (column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 12 and column 8:lines 54-63, when BUY NOW button is selected, a connection to server 40 is made, which provides a user screen with a plurality of purchase options: preferred distributor or not preferred distributor), the controller displays the plurality of options on the display (column 8, lines 60-65) and if any option is selected from among the plurality of options, the controller connects to a predetermined server through a network and acquires a order screen to be present (column 8, lines 1-15).

Although Hayward does not mention the presented screen is corresponded to the selected option from the server, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art the order screen that allows user to order the parts must correspond to the user selection of whether the user want to order from the preferred retailer.

Regarding claim 11, Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 9, wherein if the delivery purchase button is selected, the controller acquires an ordering screen for ordering the consumable from a predetermined server through a network and displays the screen on

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the display (column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 12, a purchase order screen is acquired from a predetermined server 40 and displayed to the user).

Regarding claim 13, Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 11, wherein if the delivery purchase button is selected, the controller acquires a screen to be presented, the screen containing one of a selling condition input field for entering selling condition information (column 7, line 66 - column 8, line 2, the user enters the selling conditions) and a selling condition disclosure field for disclosing selling condition information (column 8, lines 9-11, selling conditions are disclosed on the screen) as the ordering screen from a predetermined server through a network and displays the screen on the display.

Regarding claim 15, Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of in-stock and out-of-stock concerning the consumable and availability of empty vessel collection service is disclosed in the selling condition disclosure field (column 8, lines 9-10, a confirmation display is sent to the user's display after, column 8, lines 49-53, confirming availability of inventory, which provides the in-stock disclosure).

Regarding claims 18, 20: Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 11, wherein if the delivery purchase button is selected (fig 4 & column 7, line 54, BUY NOW button), the controller

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acquires a screen containing a retrieval key information input field for entering user's place retrieval key information as an ordering screen for ordering the consumable from a predetermined server through a network and displays the screen on the display (column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 25, user information concerning user location address is input in ordering screen that has been downloaded from predetermined server 40 after selecting the BUY NOW button), and the controller transmits the user's place retrieval key information entered in the retrieval key information input field to the server (column 8, lines 48-49, server receives user information) so as to receive place-dependent selling condition information extracted by the server based on the user's place retrieval key information (column 8, lines 46-54, based on user information, server 40 processes the order by shipping directly to the user or forwarding the order for local delivery from a retailer local to the user. In the teachings of Hayward et al. the place-dependent selling condition is delivery method that is based on user location and that changes depending on the location of the shipper in relation to the user. Along with delivery method, a confirmation differs based on user location relative to local distributors) and displays the received place-dependent selling condition information on the display (column 7, line 67 - column 8, line 12, purchase order confirmation is displayed, which would indicate confirmation of delivery method acceptance information).

Regarding claim 23, Hayward et al. (US 6 798 997) teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 11, wherein if the store purchase

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button is selected, the controller causes a screen to be presented for providing the dealer information from a predetermined server through a network and displays the screen on the display (column 7, line 54 - column 8, line 12 & column 8, lines 54-63, BUY NOW button, i.e. store purchase button, is selected and a display that provides dealer information is provided from a server 40 and for the user).

Regarding claims 29, 32, 34: Hayward et al. (US 6 798 99'7) teach print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 11, wherein if the store purchase button is selected (fig. 4 & column 7, line 54, BUY NOW button), the controller acquires a screen containing a retrieval key information input field for entering user's place retrieval key information (column 8:lines 48- 49, server receives user information . that has been input by user and displays the screen on the display (column 7, lines 60-65, purchase order screen is provided to user)), and the controller transmits the user's place retrieval key information entered in the retrieval key information input field to the server (column 8, lines 48-49, server receives user information that has been input by user) so as to receive place-dependent dealer information extracted by the server based on the user's place retrieval key information (column 8, lines 46-54, based on user information, server 40 processes the order by shipping directly to the user or forwarding the order for local delivery from a retailer local to the user. In the teachings of Hayward et al. the place-dependent selling condition is delivery method that is based on user location and that changes depending on the location of the shipper in relation to

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the user. Along with the delivery method, a confirmation differs based on user location relative to local distributors) and displays the received place-dependent dealer information on the display (column 7, line 67 - column 8, line 12, purchase order confirmation is displayed, which would indicate confirmation of delivery method acceptance information).

Regarding claim 35, Hayward et al. teaches, wherein the consumable is a coloring material cartridge (fig 4, magenta ink level indicates that the consumable is a coloring material cartridge. Also see column 9, lines 40-42).

Regarding claims 36, 38: Hayward et al. (US 6798 99.7) teach a program stored in a computer readable medium (inherent) for causing a computer to function as control means (column 4, lines 10-20, the program is installed on computer to interact with printer consumable purchasing system shown in fig 2).

Regarding claim 37, Hayward et al. teaches, wherein the consumable is a coloring material cartridge (fig 4, magenta ink level indicates that the consumable is a coloring material cartridge. Also see column 9, lines 40-42)

Regarding claim 39, Hayward/Vallabh discloses the print apparatus consumable purchase system of Claim 1, wherein

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the in-store purchase and pick-up button is also configured for reserving the consumable for an in-store purchase from a selected dealer. (it was previously explained that it would be obvious to include a different purchase option button in addition to the buttons already available in the Hayward/Vallabh references and that the reservation of an item is inherent in an in-store pickup)

II. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward in view of Vallabh (US 7,054,832) as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Benjamin et al (US 6,113,208).

Regarding claim 26, Hayward et al. teach the print apparatus consumable purchase system as claimed in claim 23, but do not teach wherein the dealer information contains at least one of address information and map information for locating a dealer place.

However, Benjamin et al. teach dealer information containing an address displayed to the user (column 3, lines 42-45).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have use the address information taught by Benjamin et al. in the provision of dealer information taught by Hayward et al. because it allows the user to locate suppliers nearby for more ordering flexibility.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

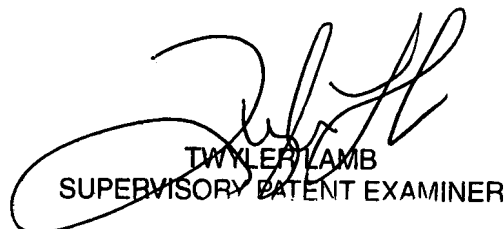
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



YQ



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